

III. Judicial Branch Vision



The courts face increasing public expectations to conduct business using technology. These expectations, with the rapid pace of technological change and emerging new technologies, require a constant effort to implement and update systems and programs to meet both the needs of our customers and judicial officers and staff. We must examine our existing practices, and we should continue to innovate new approaches to streamline, simplify, and enhance our services and programs.

*From... **Justice for the Future: Planning for Excellence 2019-2024***

The Honorable Robert Brutinel assumed the leadership of the Judiciary on July 1, 2019, becoming Chief Justice of the Arizona Supreme Court. He has provided direction to the Arizona Courts with his statement of Judicial Branch strategic initiatives in *Justice for the Future: Planning for Excellence 2019-2024*, released in June 2019. The vision encompasses five broad goals, each associated with several key strategic business needs. This agenda is a road map to increasing the public's trust in and access to the court system.

PROMOTING ACCESS TO JUSTICE

The Arizona judiciary leads the nation in identifying and implementing best practices to transform the judicial branch from a system designed for judges and lawyers to a system open (and understandable) to all participants, regardless of their financial status, physical limitations, or ability to obtain legal representation. While the judicial branch has made significant improvements in promoting access to our courts, more is needed to ensure equal access to justice for all Arizonans.

PROTECTING CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND COMMUNITIES

The Arizona judiciary has historically placed a high priority on the goal of protecting children, the elderly, families, and communities and will continue several initiatives that advance this important judicial branch responsibility. Specifically, we will continue developing and implementing best practices related to probationer release conditions. We will expand mental health and substance abuse services for probationers and others who enter the criminal and civil justice systems. We will improve our juvenile justice system by reviewing and updating rules, processes, and procedures in child dependency and delinquency cases along with programs for delinquent youth. We will continue efforts to protect families and victims of domestic violence through initiatives to improve the order of protection process and family court case processing. We will continue efforts to address the complexities of probate court rules and processes. Lastly, we will improve our work with community partners to help defendants identify and address issues leading to their involvement in the criminal and civil justice systems.

PROMOTING JUDICIAL BRANCH EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATION

The goal of promoting judicial branch excellence and innovation requires continuing our examination of court operations at all levels to identify what we can do differently or better to achieve greater efficiencies and outcomes. This effort requires accurate data and the tools necessary for leadership to understand and use data to inform decision making. Where we can,

we should address any real or perceived disparities in processes and practices and incorporate effective case management tools and practices for court decision-making and daily court operations. We must examine our existing practices, and we should continue to innovate new approaches to streamline, simplify, and enhance our services and programs.

ENHANCING PROFESSIONALISM WITHIN ARIZONA'S COURTS

While education and leadership development have been a longstanding area of excellence and innovation in our judicial branch, we must continue refining our efforts to maintain a high level of service and professionalism throughout the court system.

PROMOTING PUBLIC TRUST AND CONFIDENCE

The more the judicial branch can do to inform the public about the role of courts, their place in our communities, and the importance of understanding and participating in the judicial process, the more we can promote the public's trust and confidence in a judicial system that is fair, just, and accessible to all.